

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03775 241055Z

15

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /028 W

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R 241010Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3775

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JAN, UR, OEXC

SUBJECT: SOVIET RETURN OF JAPANESE PAINTINGS

REF: STATE 063710 (NOTAL)

BACKGROUND REQUESTED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL OF 42 PAINTINGS IN COLLECTION TO BE PRESENTED BY
SOVIETS TO GOJ WERE BY LATE JAPANESE PAINTER HEIACHIRO
FUKUDA AND BELIEVED TO BE PART OF GROUP OF 60 DONE IN THE
1930'S CURRENT VALUE UNKNOWN BUT NOT BELIEVED HIGH. PAINTINGS WERE
OWNED BY SADAMU SHUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN TAIEN, LOCATED IN WHAT WAS THEN MANCHURIA. ACCORDING
TO ARTIST'S SON, WHO RUNS COFFEE SHOP IN OSAKA, SOVIETS ACQUIRED
PAINTINGS FROM SHUTO IN 1945 IN EXCHANGE FOR FOOD AND
TOOK THEM TO MOSCOW. EVER SINCE PAINTINGS TURNED UP AT SOVIET
NATIONAL MUSEUM LAST SUMMER, JAPANESE ART COLLECTORS HAVE BEEN
PRESSING SOVIETS FOR OPPORTUNITY TO EXHIBIT THEM IN JAPAN.
GOJ HAS MADE NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR PAINTINGS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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